

BOARD OF HEALTH
Bangs Community Center: Lower Meeting Room
Minutes

April 21, 2011

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Jennifer Brown, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert,
David Kaufman

Staff: Julie Federman, Pamela Field-Sadler

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2011 – **Approved as amended**

Vote: Ahlfeld – aye; Brown – aye; Bulzacchelli – aye; Kaufman – aye;
Gilbert - abstain

II. New Business

A. BOH Member Receives Doctorate

The Board of Health (BOH) congratulated member Nancy Gilbert for successfully completing a doctorate program at the University of Massachusetts (UMass.) Ms. Gilbert has earned a Ph.D. in Nursing.

B. Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program

The Board of Health (BOH) has received notice that the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program (MTCP) will conduct retail tobacco inspections/compliance checks to comply with the federal Synar Regulation requirements. Amherst has been selected as part of a statewide sample; Ms. Federman will research why Amherst was chosen for this sample. Ms. Federman will also provide the BOH with information regarding the Synar Regulation requirements.

C. Tobacco Free Community Partnership

The Tobacco Free Community Partnership (TFCP) has requested a link to their website be made available on the Board of Health (BOH) web page of the Town of Amherst website. The TFCP website offers site visitors information regarding smoke-free housing. During the discussion, a concern was raised that the information available on the TFCP website was outdated. At this time, the BOH agreed to deny the request; however, in the future the BOH may reconsider if the information provided is regularly updated.

D. BOH Chair Sabbatical

Chairman Ahlfeld announced he will begin a one year Sabbatical in September 2011. Although he intends to continue to participate as a Board of Health (BOH) member, Chairman Ahlfeld suggested another member take on the responsibility of Chairperson. Ms. Bulzacchelli is unable to take on the

Chairperson role due to her work responsibilities. Ms. Gilbert agreed to consider serving as the Chairperson.

III. Director's Report

A. Solar Energy Project at the Old Landfill

Town Manager John Musante has requested Ms. Federman participate in the planning process of the proposed Solar Energy Project at the Old Landfill. The proposed project involves planning for the installation of a solar array to be located at the Old Landfill. Ms. Federman has had the opportunity to: review the project plans; attend a site visit with Guilford Mooring, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); attend a community meeting which addressed project concerns. Mr. Musante has made the decision that arsenic soils will not be used for this project. Ms. Federman shared her opinion that there is no reason to think the landfill's cap would be compromised by the project, or that there are any public health concerns.

B. Animal Composting

Ms. Federman and Animal Wellness Officer Carol Hepburn have responded to a concern regarding animal composting at a facility in Amherst. The facility property abuts a local conservation area; the Health Department received a report that an animal leg is visible from the conservation area. Ms. Federman has consulted the State Veterinarian and explained animal composting is a normal agricultural process with specific layering procedures suggested to be followed. Ms. Federman and Ms. Hepburn completed a site visit of the facility and reported the composted animal died a natural death. At the time of the site visit, there was no foul smell, nor visible animal body parts in the composting area. Since the site visit, it has been reported the animal leg has become exposed again. Ms. Federman and Ms. Hepburn will continue to work on this issue to ensure the proper layering procedures are being followed. Although this is not a public health threat, the suggestion to construct fencing around the composting area would serve to keep out any live animals which may disturb the layering process, as well as block any unintended view. There are no legal requirements to insist fencing be installed.

C. District Incentive Grant planning

The group of local municipalities who jointly submitted a District Incentive Grant (DIG) proposal have received an award. Planning meetings are being initiated around the Hampshire County area to explore and plan for a shared Public Health District.

D. FY10 Annual Report

The Health Department staff continues to work on the FY10 Annual Report. The Board of Health (BOH) reviewed the section which summarizes their projects and work during FY10. The BOH agreed the summary is fine with one modification. The final FY10 Annual Report is due for submittal on May 2, 2011. Ms. Federman will forward the final report to the BOH electronically.

E. Board of Health Meeting Schedule

For the purpose of room scheduling, Ms. Federman requested the Board of Health (BOH) reconsider their meeting schedule. After a discussion, the BOH agreed to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month making exceptions if needed. The BOH scheduled the following meeting dates:

May 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

June 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

July 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date

A. The next Board of Health (BOH) meeting will be May 26, 2011.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Pamela Field-Sadler, Management Assistant

Approved: May 26, 2011

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.
These documents are available for review at the:

Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: March 24, 2011 (draft)
- MHOA Correspondence re: Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program
- Excerpt from the draft FY10 Annual Report
- Correspondence re: District Incentive Planning Grant